

Trial Wycombe W. line-up beaten

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE W. 0 LEYTONSTONE 3

WYCOMBE Wanderers, with new skipper Johnnie Bartholomew leading an experimental line-up for the first Isthmian League game of the season, were beaten at home by Leytonstone 3-0.

Wycombe: Brown; Beck, Timberlake; Thomas, Bartholomew, Darvall; Worley, Rockell, Bates, Robertson, James.

Leytonstone: Griffin; Allen, Wood; Strover, Newman, Smith; Hammond, Noble, Greenhill, Day, Cudmore.

Referee: E Ruck (St Albans).

Wycombe's right wing combination of Rockell and Worley was soon in determined action but after forcing an early corner the Wanderers were a goal down within three minutes, GREENHILL heading neatly past Brown from Hammond's centre.

Immediately afterwards, Wycombe appeals for a penalty were waved aside by the referee after Bates had been brought down in the area.

Then a smart move by Bates and James forced Allen to concede a corner, but the quick-moving Leytonstone backs covered well. The visitors more workmanlike forward play forced Wycombe to pack their goal for a spell, but Leytonstone were a little lucky on two occasions when Griffin only just managed to stop powerful drives from the enterprising Bates.

At the other end Brown did well to save an accurate wing shot from Hammond. Darvall and Thomas were prominent in Wycombe's mid-field play but the forwards failed to sustain their advances against the prompt tackling of the Leytonstone backs.

Peter James made little progress in his new role on the left wing in partnership with newcomer Robertson.

Wycombe pressed hotley just before half-time and once with an excellent chance Bates was crowded off the ball as he tried to break through.

Half-time: Wycombe 0, Leytonstone 1.

There was another unpleasant shock for Wycombe two minutes after the resumption when goalkeeper Brown pushed a shot from Alf Noble to the feet of HAMMOND, who increased Leytonstone's lead.

Then Bates missed a sitter for Wycombe from a Worley centre. Cudmore almost got another for Leytonstone with a flying shot which Brown saved by throwing himself full-length.

BROWN SAVES

Brown saved the Wanderers again when inside left Day flashed in a shot in another attack as Leytonstone kept the home side defending desperately.

Wycombe's hopes of recovery appeared to centre largely on Rockell and Worley, both of whom put in some good work on the right wing, but the finishing was poor.

Bates had another good chance in front of goal but was bundled off the ball just as he was about to shoot and the ball went inches wide.

Newcomer Robertson, who had an unhappy game, switched to the left wing in a belated Wycombe shuffle and James moved into the middle to try to add punch to the attack. But the too-casual Wanderers were still unable to make much progress though James almost found the mark with an overhead hook shot.

With only two minutes to go, Leytonstone were awarded a penalty for hands and NOBLE added their third from the spot.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WANDERERS 0
LEYTONSTONE 3

THIS WON'T DO, WYCOMBE

Wycombe 0 Leytonstone 3

WYCOMBE WANDERERS never recovered from an early shock—they were a goal down within five minutes—and had no answer to the more workmanlike Leytonstone side.

Although they had rather more of the play, Wycombe, with a largely experimental line-up, never looked like outwitting Leytonstone's closely-covering defence, with Griffin in masterly form again in goal.

Centre forward Paul Bates was too well marked to be very dangerous, and with James and newcomer Robertson ineffective on the left wing, Wycombe's main hope of recovery depended on the sparkling right wing pair Rockell and Worley.

But their finishing throughout was inept and their casual approach play contrasted badly with Leytonstone's direct and purposeful tactics.

Wingers Hammond and Cudmore, well supported by Day and Noble, were a constant menace to the uncertain home defence and within five minutes Greenhill put Leytonstone ahead with a neat header from Hammond's right wing lob.

Wing halves Darvall and Thomas tried hard to get Wycombe moving, but Leytonstone had little difficulty in maintaining their lead.

Two minutes after the interval Hammond scored a second goal after Brown had only partially saved a shot from Alf Noble.

Wycombe switched James to the middle and Robertson to the left wing in a belated attempt to achieve some cohesion, but Leytonstone's grip on the game was not to be shaken.

A few minutes before the close Noble got their third with a penalty.